THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will find out from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Madam, I would just like to say that Mr. Rajesh Pilot is making a statement.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I want a statement on the gas leakage in Kalyan, Bombay.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pilot is in the Lok Sabha and he would be making a statement afterwards in the Rajya Sabha, as soon as he is free from there.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dineshbhai Trivedi has got a privilege matter.

प्रिविलेज का बोल दीजिए... (व्यवधान) वह प्रिविलेज का कुछ बोल रहे हैं, पहले उनको बोलने दीजिए... (व्यवधान)

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): I am indeed very sad today and I seek the indulgence of the attention of this House, Madam. It concerns the very privilege, the dignity of this House. We are going through unprecedented times in this country where bombardments are taking place everywhere. What concerns me more is that, in spirit, we are coming very close to bombarding this very House. I am not talking about any physical bombardment. I was indeed very sad when I received a reply to a special mention which I had made three years back. I got a reply the day before yesterday. And, the reply says, "May I draw your kind attention to the matter of urgent public importance...". After three years, it says, "...matter of urgent public importance....". I got the reply after three years. And who replies? Madam, it is very important. It is the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Welfare. Can you imagine where we are going? If jointly we decide that this is the state of affairs, then I have no problems. There is the awe of this august House. Madam, this is not all. It is a matter raised by you in Lok Sabha. I do not know whether the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have been merged. (*Interruptions*). I do not know whether the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are merged or not. The gentleman says, वह कहते है कि "जो मुद्दा आपने लोक सभा में उठाया"। गनीमत है वह यह कहते हैं। "जो मुद्दा आपने परलोकसभा में उठाया" ये, ये भी कह सकते थे। Madam, I do not want to treat this as a joke because it is very, very serious. I would further say, the letter is dated 29th January and it is posted in the month of March. I have got the envelope which says 10th of March. I just want to draw the attention of the House to this. Once and for all, we want to decide where we want to go in this country. If this is the way special mentions and matters of urgent public importance are treated, then, I am afraid, that is a matter of concern. Bombardment is also a matter of concern. If this is the way the spirit of this House, the spirit of democracy, is going to be treated, I tell you, I am very, very sad and I leave it to the august House and to you, Madam Deputy Chairman, to give directions.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैडम, इससे पहले एक बार मैंने यह मसला उठाया था और बताया था कि एक सेशन के अंदर डेढ़ सौ से दो सौ स्पैशल मैंशन आते है और उसका कोई जवाब मेंबरान को नहीं आता कि इस सिलसिले में क्या कार्यवाही की गई।

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل:
(اتر پردیش) : مہدم - اس سے
پہلے میں نے ایک بار یہ مسئلہ
اٹھایا تھا اور بتایا تھا کہ ایک
سمکشن نے اندر ڈیڑھ سو سے دو سو
اسپیشل - پلشن آئے ہیں اور اسکا
کوئی جواب ممبران کو نہیں آتا کہ
اس سلسلہ میں کیا کاروائی کیگئی-]

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, there are two aspects of this issue. One is, there is a convention that if any special mention is made, within a period of one month, the reply has to be given by the Minister concerned. Here the reply has been given after three years. The other is, by a special mention, the attention of the Minister or for that matter of the Government is drawn to a matter of urgent public importance and the reply to such a special mention is given by the Minister himself. That is the practice. But here, a Join Secretary is replying to the special mention made by a Member of this House. In addition, there are grammatical and all other mistakes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not grammatical mistake, but factual mistakes.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Yes, factual mistake. It betrays a totally lack adasical attitude on the part of the Minister concerned and for that matter, the Ministry concerned and it is a matter of privilege that the Member will be receiving a reply to his special mention from a Joint Secretary and not from the Minister. So, it should be referred to the Privileges Committee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he moves a motion of privilege, we send it to the Chairman and we will see what we should do about it. Now, let us take up the other business. Mrs. Alva, do you want to say somethings? Mrs. Alva wants to say something. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Yes, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thangka Balu, it is good that now you are here. You may not be knowing much about it because this is a three year old matter in which a Member has raised an issue about the Ministry of which now you are a Minister .I don't know who was the Minister three years back. But anyway, the reply has come now not from the Minister or even you. The reply has come from the Joint Secretary, who doesn't even know that this matter was raised in Rajya Sabha and Member of Parliament who raised it is a Member of Rajya Sabha and not of Lok Sabha and the Joint Secretary, in his letter says that the matter was raised in the Lok Sabha. Now, it shows that they have not taken it seriously. So you must take this matter seriously. (*Interruptions*)

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल : मैडम, यहां हाउस में 200 से ज्यादा स्पेशल मेंशन होते हैं, उन पर बहुत कम कार्यवाही होती है आज जो कुछ दिनेश भाई त्रिवेदी ने सरकार की नालेज में बात लाई, क्या सरकार इस बात का ऐश्योरेंस देगी कि जो मामला यहां उठाया जाएगा उसका रिप्लाई सरकार एक महीने के अंदर करेगी ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will explain. What he is saying is that whatever special mentions are made, the convention is that the reply from the Minister must come within one month. So is the Government going to give an assurance about it?

SHRI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, I certainly agree with the Members that the special mentions must be taken more seriously. I am very sorry about this incident where the reply has come after three years. I shall certainly take up the matter with the Leader of the House and also with the Prime Minister and we will see that these matters are looked into by the Ministers themselves and much more expeditiously.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Within one month?

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She said it. Now, sit down.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): I will raise another issue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you.

RE. BJP RALLY IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, permit me to raise the issue of the BJP rally in Madras on 21st. The BJP has applied for permission to hold a rally five days before and within the time limit and the licence has not yet been issued for the rally. It is under the consideration of the State Government. Even if it is issued, the Government and the police will take all the precautions to see that law and order is maintained. (*Interruptions*) Madam, already there had been a talk with the BJP leaders. They have also promise that law and order will be maintained (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Will you please sit down? (*Interruptions*) First, I should understand what is the matter. I cannot hear. (*Interruptions*) I will have to find out. Mr. Swaminathan, what did you say? (*Interruptions*) Will everybody sit down?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The State Government of Tamil Nadu has taken all the precautions ragarding the bomb blast. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What did he say? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I am talking about the bomb blasts which had happened in Calcutta and Bombay and some reservations have been expressed. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking all the precautions regarding the bomb blast and law and order situation and everything will be protected. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear anything. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is taking keen interest in preserving the law and order and to see that similar to Bombay and Calcutta... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me find out, Mr. Hanumanthappa. How can I give my ruling if I haven't heard a word of what he said when both of you are speaking? (*Interruptions*) How can I hear him? Mr. Hanumanthappa, let me hear. If I find that anything is irrelevant or wrong, I am myself going to take action. But I cannot hear anything. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka) It may not be unparliamentary: it may not be irrelevant. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I have a point of procedure. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, in a manner like this when four-five people are speaking together, if you expect me to understand each word which was spoken and whether it is parliamentary or unparliamentary, procedural or unprocedural, I think it s very difficult. I cannot understand. Let me hear what he said or let me see the record. If I feel anything which should not be spoken in this House, which is a matter concerning the State was objected to, I will look into the record ... (*Interruptions*) ...